

From: Ulrich Gerlach
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/24/02 1:48pm
Subject: Micosoft Settlement

Dear Judge of the District Court,

I rarely write letters to my Congressman, to say nothing about the Department of Justice. However, with the Microsoft case my own future (life, liberty, and persuit of happiness) is being threatened by the outcome. This is why I am taking valuable time out to write you this note.

First of all, being a user of Windows, I resent being characterized as a helpless victim who cannot choose his own software. Just as the government has no right to determine what food goes or doesn't go into my stomach, it is none of the government's business to decide what software goes into my computer.

Second, it is none of the government's business to suppress or favor one religion over another, to "level the playing field", even if one religion is more successful in establishing its market share than any other. The same applies to businesses. The government has no right to suppress or favor one business over any other. Customers voting with their dollars, not envious competitors using political pull or fundamentally flawed laws, should determine which business gets the largest market share.

Third, I would like to see a free America where success is not throttled but embraced, where anyone with enough intelligence can be a self-made man like Bill Gates.

Fourth, last and most importantly, Microsoft created and produced its products without any legal restrictions on its competitors, without any government franchises, without any government tariffs, subsidies, privileges or favors; in other words, it achieved its enviable market status fair and square using only what belongs to Microsoft and Bill Gates and no one else: their life, their liberty, and their pursuit of happiness.

An attempt to infringe on these rights in the name of antitrust is not only morally wrong, but is in direct violation of the principles spelled out explicitly in the Declaration of Independence.

Tomorrow it will be some other persons, in particular some other productive, creative, efficient, and competent member of society who will be forced to abrogate his rights under the threat of incessant persecution. Witness the "compromise" between the FTC and Intel three years ago in which the government trampled on Intel's right to dispose

of its own property, and which, under the threat of productivity draining persecution, triple damages, seven-figure fines, and jail time, Intel's CEO by necessity had to call a "win-win deal".

What is particularly alarming is that the government, which has been instituted to secure each persons right to life, liberty, and persuit of happiness, now, in the name of antitrust, presides over the violation of these rights.

I therefore urge you in the strongest possible terms to:

- a) cease and desist your (support of the government's) immoral campaign against Microsoft, to
- b) use your resources to defend the Declaration of Independence against those state Attorney Generals and envious competitors who seek to violate it, and to
- c) have the government reprimand these violators and have them make a public apology for the unjust hardship, humiliations, and distress which it has brought upon a business which represents the best in American culture.

Sincerely,

Ulrich H. Gerlach

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